Descriptions of the Neallotypes of Two Cape *Poecilmitis* Butler (Lepidoptera: Lycaenidae)

By C. G. C. Dickson

When describing *Poecilmitis atlantica* and *P. brooksi tearei* (Entomologist's Record, **78**: pp. 181-182 and 217-219 respectively, 1966) only the males of these insects were dealt with by the present writer, and descriptions are now being given of the females.

Poecilmitis atlantica.

Forewing with the distal margin rounded, or nearly so.

Upperside.

Blue from wing-bases (as is usual in females of the *P. thysbe* group) much duller and in the forewing more restricted than in the male.

Forewing. Blue extends to a black spot in cell (leaving a broad, rather light brownish costal strip above cell) and has its outer margin running down irregularly to a point about half-way along innermargin. (Some slight iridescence occurs, in places, over the orange area, beyond the edge of the main blue colouring). The black spotting (well developed in the neallotype) and margins as in the male but the spot in area 1a very distinct and well clear of the blue area. Cilia with broad blackish-grey spaces at vein-ends and narrow white, or nearly white, divisions (as in the neallotype); or dark-greyish with inconspicuous lighter divisions.

Hindwing. Blue from base of about same extent as the "solid" blue in the male but running, narrowly, along innermargin closer to anal-angle; in cell, more or less bounded by a narrow black disco-cellular streak. No iridescence over the orange portion of the wing beyond the blue area. The black spotting completely developed but, in the neallotype anyway, less heavy than in the forewing. Wing margined narrowly with black, the edging broader superiorly, where it merges into a brownish streak above vein 7, and not in all specimens entirely continuous towards anal-angle. Cilia much as in forewing but the chequering not as well defined on the whole, even in specimens in which it is more clearly variegated (but, in such specimens, with long white spaces in areas 6 and 7).

Underside.

Forewing. Like that of male; in the very clearly marked neallotype the submarginal dark, curved streak largely obscured by steely scaling in areas 4 and 5. Cilia as in male, the clearness or otherwise of the dark and light spacing varying in individual specimens in accordance with that of the upperside.

Hindwing. As in male, in general, some specimens showing more contrast than others in the dark and light markings of the wing—this being marked in the neallotype, in which there are well defined, dark, roundedly-pointed projections forming an irregular series across the median portion of the wing. The characteristic liturae and other light markings not, or hardly, metallic in any of the specimens examined. One paratype with a clear, narrow, dark edging to the wing. Cilia as in male, and varying in the degree of variegation, as in forewing.

Length of forewing: 13-14 mm. (13 mm., in neallotype).

♀ Neallotype, WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE: Lambert's Bay, 6.x.1966 (W. Teare); specimen presented by Mr Teare to British Museum (N.H.); British Museum Reg. No. Rh. 17107.

Paratype in author's collection, data as neallotype, 30.viii.1963, 1 ♀ (C.G.C.D.).

Paratype in Coll. W. Teare, as neallotype, 1 ♀.

Paratypes in Coll. K. M. Pennington, W. CAPE PROVINCE: as neallotype, 4.i.1967, 1 ♀ (K.M.P.) Junction Elands Bay and Lambert's Bay roads, 29.ix.1967, 1 ♀ (K.M.P.). Additional specimen seen—specimens loaned for examination by Mr Pennington.

Paratype in Coll. Transvaal Museum, as neallotype, 7.x.1966, 1 ♀ (R. Badham).

In some of the females which obviously belong to this species the blue of the forewing (and sometimes that of the hindwing also) is rather more extensive than in the neallotype and at least one of the paratypes. Unlike the males of the two insects, certain females are, in fact, apart from their smaller size, difficult to separate from some of the females of the more usual representative of the *thysbe* group which occurs in the vicinity of Lambert's Bay (*vide* Ent. Rec., **78**: 182).

The writer was not successful in procuring good specimens of the female when visiting Lambert's Bay in early September, 1966, as the few specimens which were seen proved evasive and difficult to catch—although several perfect males were netted. The late Russell Badham and W. Teare took examples of both sexes in this locality in the same year, as did K. M. Pennington and others on various occasions. The butterfly has a wider distribution than was apparent from the earlier captures.

Poecilmitis brooksi tearei.

Forewing without the sharp angulation of the male, marginally, at the end of vein 4.

Upperside.

Blue from bases, in all wings, somewhat more extensive than in the majority of females of the nominate race.

Forewing. The small additional extent of the blue, mainly apparent in the lower portion of the wing. Cilia dark at vein ends, with the intervening spaces orange inwardly and white outwardly—the white portions not very prominent.

Hindwing. Black streak closing the cell relatively broad, the blue area as a whole bounded outwardly by rather diffuse black scaling—a noticeable feature in all specimens under examination. Cilia, with the conspicuous white portions towards the upper angle of the wing, less pronounced in the neallotype than in at least one of the paratypes.

Underside.

Like that of females of the nominate race, allowing for some individual variation in such specimens.

Length of forewing: 14-16·5 mm. (14 mm., in neallotype).

♀ Neallotype, WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE: Riversdale, 19.x.1966 (W. Teare); specimen presented by Mr Teare to British Museum (N.H.); British Museum Reg. No. Rh. 17106.

Paratypes in Coll. W. Teare, data as neallotype, 2 ♀♀.

In the above specimens the costal margins of all wings are, on the upperside, at least partly scaled with black or blackish-brown. to a fair

depth. The black spotting and other marking is also well developed in these specimens. It is of interest to find that the present female specimens do diverge somewhat from nominate females of *P. brooksi*, with the difference understandably less than in the males of the two races—as is normally the case with closely allied taxa of this group.

When revisiting the type-locality in 1966, in company with the late Mr Russell Barham, Mr Teare was fortunate enough to secure further males as well as the females, of this butterfly, and according to him the males were in all cases as distinctive as the original ones and gave full confirmation of the subspecific status of this insect.

The preparation of this article would not have been possible without the kind co-operation of the late Mr Russell Badham and Mr W. Teare in furnishing the necessary material.

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Acrolepia perlepidella Stainton (Lep.: Plutellidae)

By J. M. Chalmers-Hunt

EARLY HISTORY

The earliest reference to this very pretty little moth is to be found in Stainton (1849: 19), at which time it appears that only two specimens were known. After describing it as new, he says:—"Two specimens: one in the Bentleyan collection (as Formosella), one in Mr Douglas's collection." In Stainton (1854: 170), a third example is recorded thus: "a specimen recently taken in Darenth Wood, in May, is in Mr Shepherd's collection".

The discovery in Britain of a species new to science and of such attractive appearance doubtless created a particular interest, and by 1858 it had been found at "Brs" (=Bristol) and as such was recorded in Stainton (1859) but without details. According to Hudd & Griffiths (1914: 37), the "Brs" records in Stainton's *Manual* were contributed by two well-known microlepidopterists, Messrs. Sircom of Brislington and P. H. Vaughan of Redland.

Barrett (1879) states that W. H. Grigg, of Bristol, caught several specimens of the moth in 1876. The foodplant was still unknown, nor had anyone previously even suspected the correct pabulum, but in the spring of 1879, Grigg with considerable ingenuity, succeeded in discovering the foodplant as *Inula conyza*, and in breeding the insect from mines that he had collected from it. Some of these mines he presented to Barrett, who (*loc. cit.*) wrote a detailed description of the nearly full-grown larva, of the cocoon, as well as a most interesting account of some of the larval habits. No mention is made of the locality of Grigg's *perlepidella*, but in Hudd (1884: 85) is the following note: "Leigh Woods and the bank of the Avon. Mr Grigg succeeded in discovering the larvae of this local insect, mining the leaves of *Inula conyza* in Leigh Woods, in the spring".

In E. R. Bankes coll. in BMNH are ten *perlepidella* bearing data. Some of these are labelled as from Grigg, others as from W. Machin and Hodgkinson, but all appear to have come from the Bristol district. One that is labelled "W. H. Grigg/Bristol/1892", may have been among the